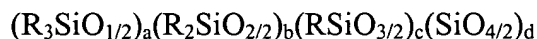


## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



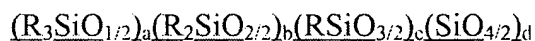
wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;  
and  $a = 0.02$  to  $0.8$ ;  $b = 0$  to  $0.4$ ; and  $c+d = 0.2$  to  $0.98$ , where  $a+b+c+d = 1.0$ , and where  
~~characterized in that~~ at least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula  
 $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$ ,  $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$  or  $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$ , wherein each R' is an alkenyl group.

2. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein~~characterized~~  
~~in that~~ each R' is a vinyl group.
3. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 12, wherein  
~~characterized in that~~ at least 10 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are  $Vi_3SiO_{1/2}$   
groups, where Vi represents vinyl.
4. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein  
~~characterized in that~~ at least 80 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are selected from  
 $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$ ,  $RSiO_{3/2}$  and  $SiO_{4/2}$  units.
5. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein  
~~characterized in that~~ at least 20 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are  $ArSiO_{3/2}$  units  
where Ar represents an aryl group.

6. (Currently Amended) A self-curable silicone resin according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 5,~~  
wherein characterized in that 10-50 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are  $\text{HSiO}_{3/2}$  units.
7. (Currently Amended) A self-curable silicone resin according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 5,~~  
wherein characterized in that 10-50 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are  $\text{HR}_2\text{SiO}_{1/2}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{RSiO}_{1/2}$  or  $\text{HRSiO}_{2/2}$  units.
8. (Currently Amended) A curable resin composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin  
having the empirical formula  

$$(\text{R}_3\text{SiO}_{1/2})_a(\text{R}_2\text{SiO}_{2/2})_b(\text{RSiO}_{3/2})_c(\text{SiO}_{4/2})_d$$
wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;  
and a = 0.02 to 0.8; b = 0 to 0.4; and c+d = 0.2 to 0.98, where a+b+c+d=1.0, where at  
least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula  $\text{R}'_3\text{SiO}_{1/2}$ ,  $\text{RR}'_2\text{SiO}_{1/2}$   
or  $\text{R}'_2\text{SiO}_{2/2}$ , wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, according to any of Claims 1 to 5 and  
 (II) a curing agent having at least one group reactive with the alkenyl group R'.
9. (Currently Amended) A curable resin composition according to Claim 8  
wherein characterized in that the curing agent contains at least one Si-H group and the  
composition includes a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.
10. (Currently Amended) A curable resin composition according to Claim 9  
wherein characterized in that the curing agent is a polysiloxane containing at least two Si-  
H groups or an aryl compound of the formula  $\text{HX}_2\text{Si-Ar-SiX}_2\text{H}$ , in which Ar is a  
substantially nonflexible linkage including at least one para-arylene moiety and each X  
is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom.
11. (Currently Amended) A curable resin composition comprising a self-curable resin  
according to Claim 6 ~~or Claim 7~~ and a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

12. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a cured heat resistant silicone resin having a low coefficient of thermal expansion, comprising the step of reacting ~~characterised in that~~ a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;

and a = 0.02 to 0.8; b = 0 to 0.4; and c+d = 0.2 to 0.98, where a+b+c+d = 1.0, where at

least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula  $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$ ,

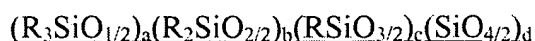
$RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$  or  $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$ , wherein each R' is an alkenyl group,

~~according to any of Claims 1 to 5 is reacted with a curing agent having at least one~~  
functional group reactive with the alkenyl group R'.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 12, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the curing agent contains at least one Si-H group and the curing process is carried out in the presence of a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a cured heat resistant silicone resin having a low coefficient of thermal expansion, comprising the step of heating ~~characterised in that~~ a self-curable silicone resin according to Claim 6 ~~or Claim 7 is~~ heated in the presence of a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for encapsulating a substrate comprising the steps of coating, ~~characterised in the substrate is encapsulated with in~~ a curable silicone resin composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;

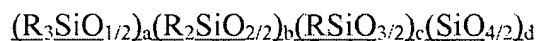
and a = 0.02 to 0.8; b = 0 to 0.4; and c+d = 0.2 to 0.98, where a+b+c+d = 1.0, where at

least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula  $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$ ,  $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$

or  $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$ , wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least

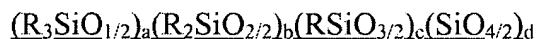
one group reactive with the alkenyl group R', according to any of Claims 8 to 11 and then reacting (I) and (II).the resin is cured by a process according to any of Claims 12 to 14.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for coating a substrate comprising the steps of-  
characterised in that the curable silicone resin according to any of Claims 8 to 11 is  
applyingied a curable silicone composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having  
the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;  
and a = 0.02 to 0.8; b = 0 to 0.4; and c+d = 0.2 to 0.98, where a+b+c+d = 1.0, where at  
least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula R'\_3SiO\_{1/2}, RR'2SiO\_{1/2}  
or R'\_2SiO\_{2/2}, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least  
one group reactive with the alkenyl group R' as a thin film to a substrate and then  
reacting (I) and (II)before being cured by a process according to any of Claims 12 to 14.

17. (Currently amended) A process for making a composite material, comprising the step of  
impregnating characterised in that at least one layer of fibrous material is impregnated  
with a curable silicone composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the  
empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;  
and a = 0.02 to 0.8; b = 0 to 0.4; and c+d = 0.2 to 0.98, where a+b+c+d = 1.0, where at  
least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula R'\_3SiO\_{1/2}, RR'2SiO\_{1/2}  
or R'\_2SiO\_{2/2}, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least  
one group reactive with the alkenyl group R' and then reacting (I) and (II)a curable-  
silicone resin composition according to any of Claims 8 to 11 and the resin is cured by a  
process according to any of Claims 12 to 14.

18. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 17~~, wherein the first step  
is characterised in that the curing process comprises a first step at a temperature in the range  
50 to 300°C and further comprising a a subsequent heat cure step at a ~~higher~~ temperature in  
the range 300 to 500°C
19. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~  
further heating step at 300-500°C is carried out in the presence of an amine which is in the  
vapour state at the temperature of the further heating step.
20. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 19, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~  
amine is a tertiary amine of the formula  $NZ_3$ , where each Z represents an alkyl group having  
1 to 4 carbon atoms.
21. (Currently amended) A cured heat resistant silicone resin composition prepared by the  
process of ~~any of Claims 12 to 20~~.
22. (New) A cured heat resistant silicone resin composition prepared by the process of Claim 18.